



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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GWU Report Lauds Bush Consolidation & Flexibility Proposals

A new report on the likely impact of the Bush education plan by George Washington University's Institute for Education Policy Studies gives high marks to the President's proposals on consolidating programs and enhancing local decision-making flexibility. Specifically, the report states:

"Respondents generally concluded that the Bush Administration's proposal for program consolidation, if applied to the smaller programs, could strengthen education in low-income communities because it would decrease the current fragmentation of education programs. It also would permit those closest to the situation to set priorities for the use of funds. Districts would not be required to use federal funds for a particularly purpose -- for example, to reduce class size -- but instead would have the option of using the funds in other ways, perhaps to hire more qualified teachers, if they felt that would be more beneficial."

The President's plan gives schools the freedom to target resources where they're needed most -- from class size reduction to teacher pay to technology -- and address needs that may change annually.

To meet the higher expectations of the President's plan, **local school districts and states should have new freedom from burdensome federal rules and red tape.** Schools and states should receive more flexibility -- not more bureaucracy. That's why flexibility and local control are pillars of the President's education plan.

Message of the Day

President Bush has made it clear that flexibility, local control, and consolidation are key components of his education reform plan.

- ❑ *To meet the higher expectations of the President's plan, local school districts and states should have new freedom from burdensome federal rules and red tape.*
- ❑ *Funding increases should be targeted to students who need help the most -- not used to create a host of new programs.*
- ❑ *The President's plan gives schools the flexibility to address educational needs that change annually.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- The House-passed bill (H.R. 1) gives states and local schools additional flexibility to improve student performance by reducing red tape and consolidating duplicative federal programs.
- In order to focus funding on what works, H.R. 1 reduces the overall number of ESEA programs from 55 to 47; the Senate increases the overall number from 55 to 89 (*source: Congressional Research Service*).
- The Senate-passed bill gives state governments important relief from federal red tape, allowing 25 school districts and seven state governments to apply for greater flexibility in exchange for stronger accountability.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When local school districts can waive burdensome regulations so successful educational programs can be used more easily, that's good. That kind of flexibility with federal funds has enabled many urban school districts to adopt proven, research-based reading programs, for example." **Sandra Feldman, American Federation of Teachers, July 30, 2001**